Legislation for holding of agricultural land

1812. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the size of holding of agricultural land is decreasing day by day and becoming unviable to earn livelihood;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring any legislation to fix a minimum quantum of holding of agriculture so as to make farming a viable earning; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The average size of holding of agricultural land has decreased from 2.28 hectares in 1970-71 to 1.41 hectares in 1995-96.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Reforms in KVK System

1813. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have called for the reforms of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra System;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction, so far;

(c) whether Government propose to extent the services needed to evolve and make the system contemporary in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the KVKs are providing support to farmers to build their skills and confidence;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of action plans of KVKs like strategic crop planning, demonstrations, exposure visits, training, gender concerns, mass media schemes, kisan call centers and agri-clinics?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) A number of steps have been taken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to bring reforms of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra System. The steps are as follows:—

- Establishment of one KVK in all the rural districts of the country.
- Constitution of Scientific Advisory Committee for effective planning and management of the KVK activities.
- Instituting ICAR Award for outstanding KVK.
- Provision of Revolving Fund for instructional farm activities.
- Decentralized monitoring of KVK activities and release of funds.

(c) and (d) In order to extend the services needed and to make the KVK system contemporary, the Council has taken the following steps:

- Provisions of electronic connectivity to 200 KVKs during X Plan for availability of technology information to the farmers.
- Providing Soils and Water testing facilities to 326 KVKs during X Plan for increased input efficiency.
- Upgradation of knowledge and skills of women farmers.

(e) and (f) In order to provide support to the farmers to upgrade their knowledge and skills, during the last one year, 8.43 lakh farmers were trained by the KVKs on various aspects of crop production, crop protection, livestock production and management, fisheries, natural management, use of tools and implements and other related areas.

(g) The main extension system is operated by the State Governments. There is no proposal for strategic crop planning by the KVKs. During the last one year, the KVKs conducted 33,942 frontline demonstrations and a large number of training programmes benefiting 8.43 lakh farmers including 2.76 lakh women farmers. The KVKs also took up various extension activities through mass media like, publication of bulletins (63), extension literatures (1281), popular articles (785), newspaper coverage (4910) and radio/TV talks (3030).

So far, 2,459 Agri-clinics and Agribusiness centres have been set up. Twelve toll free Kisan Call Centres are now operational covering all the States.